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18 April 2013

Mrs Catherine Thornton
Headteacher
Thrumpton Primary School
Whinney Moor Lane
Retford
DN22 7AF

Dear Mrs Thornton

Requires improvement monitoring inspection visit under section 8 of the Education act 2005 to Thrumpton Primary School, Nottinghamshire local authority.

Following my visit to your school on 17 April 2013, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report on the findings of my visit. Thank you for the help you gave me and for the time you made available to discuss the actions you are taking to improve the school since the most recent section 5 inspection.

The visit was the first monitoring inspection since the school was judged to require improvement following the section 5 inspection in January 2013. It was carried out under section 8 of the Education Act 2005.

Evidence

During the visit, meetings were held with the headteacher, the governing body, and a representative of the local authority. The school improvement and action plan was evaluated. In addition, I toured the school, visiting some classrooms briefly, guided by pupils from Year 6.

Context

There have been no significant changes to the context of the school since the section 5 inspection.

Main findings

Senior leaders and governors have begun taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent section 5 inspection. You have focused on the important issues and put in place a strategy to bring about the necessary changes reasonably quickly. The pupils commented on some of the improvements in teaching evident already.

A review of governance has been carried out. As a result, the governing body has become more involved in the improvement of the school. New recruits to the governing body have brought useful experience and increased the governing body's effectiveness. Governors have increased their skills in understanding data about the pupils' progress and this is leading to more-purposeful discussions with you and other members of staff.

The school improvement plan sets out relevant activities and targets to be met. You expressed convincingly an ambition for the school to be good before the end of the two-year period within which the school will be re-inspected. The plan does not show clearly, however, the steps to be taken at particular points in time leading up to the next inspection. That makes it difficult for you and the governing body to check on progress closely enough.

We agreed that you would send to me an updated version of the school improvement plan following this visit. I recommend that you attend one of the Ofsted 'Getting to good' seminars. I recommend also that I visit the school again to check progress with the improvements in teaching and governance and to discuss with you whether the school is on track to be judged a 'good school' at its next inspection.

External support

You have established a productive working relationship with the local authority, which has ensured that the school has an appropriate range of support. The school is using the support well to bring about improvements in teaching.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Governing Body and the Director of Children's Services for Nottinghamshire.

Yours sincerely

Clive Moss

Her Majesty's Inspector